

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 21576 01 OF 02 231727Z

42

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-08

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 PA-01 PRS-01

DHA-02 BIB-01 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 NSC-05 OMB-01 ABF-01

TRSE-00 /106 W

----- 125233

R 231716Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3279

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 21576

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO INFORMATION GROUP MEETING, JULY 23,
1976

1. RE ISRAELI-EUROPEAN GROUP ISSUES. SWISS PERMREP REPORTED FURTHER ON "SOUNDING GROUP" CONTACTS WITH MEMBERS OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS, MEMBERS WHO HAD ABSTAINED ON ISRAELI ENTRY INTO EUROPEAN REGION AT 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE, AND WITH NAJMAN OF SECRETARIAT. HE SUMMARIZED POSITIVE POINTS ENCOUNTERED AS FINDING RATHER BROAD UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEM, AND A WIDE ACCEPTANCE OF EXBD RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEMBERSHIP IN REGIONAL GROUPS, ALTHOUGH MOST DELEGATIONS HAVE NO INSTRUCTIONS THIS POINT. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT KEY TO GETTING ISRAEL INTO EUROPEAN REGION IS STAND OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND ESPECIALLY USSR. SWISS ALSO STRESSED IN STRONGEST TERMS THAT US IS KEY TO REACHING UNDERSTANDING WITH USSR. SWISS PERMREP FELT
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PAGE 02 PARIS 21576 01 OF 02 231727Z

IT IMPORTANT THAT USSR MUST KNOW CLEARLY AND DIRECTLY FROM US WHAT OPTIONS ARE AND WHAT LIKELY CONSEQUENCE

WOULD BE RE US AND UNESCO AND USSR IF ISRAEL DENIED
ADMISSION AGAIN TO EUROPEAN GROUP. VIEW EXPRESSED
STRONGLY BY SWISS, CANADA AND PORTUGAL REPS WITH MANY
NODS AROUND TABLE, THAT A GESTURE FROM ISRAEL IS
ESSENTIAL TO THIS ISSUE. GESTURE OR GESTURES RE
JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS. PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR EX-
PLAINED HER COUNTRY'S VIEWS THAT ISRAEL SHOULD NOT BE
TREATED DIFFERENTLY FROM ANY OTHER COUNTRY, BUT
THAT IT IMPORTANT ISRAEL MAKE A GESTURE TO UNESCO AND
ALSO THAT IT DEMONSTRATE A FEELING OF COMMUNITY WITH
EUROPEAN REGION.

2. PORTUGAL PERMREP AHNOUNCED THAT PORTUGAL IS SUB-
MITTING ITS CANDIDACY TO JOIN EXBD. SINCE SPAIN'S
MEMBERSHIP WILL FINISH THIS YEAR, PORTUGAL WOULD
HOPE TO JOIN IN SPAIN'S PLACE. IT APPEARED THAT
BEIGIUM, SWITZERLAND AND OTHER HAD ENCOURAGED THIS
SUBMISSION.

3. RE MEETING ON RACE AND RACISM. CANADA AND PORTUGAL
AND OTHERS FELT SECRETARIAT DRAFT DECLARATION ON RACE
AND RACIAL PREJUDICE AN INFERIOR DOCUMENT
WHICH WOULD LOWER PRESTIGE OF ORGANIZATION IF
ADOPTED. IT FELT THAT DEFINITIONS WERE UNSCIENTIFIC
AND LANGUAGE WAS VAGUE. SOME TEN COUNTRIES INDICATED
THEY HAD OR WERE IN PROCESS OF REPLYING TO DG'S LETTER
OF JUNE 14 WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT MUCH MORE TIME
NEEDED TO DEVELOP DOCUMENT WORTHY OF UNESCO.

4. RE DRAFT DECLARATION OF MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES.
FRG DISTRIBUTED ALTERNATIVE DRAFT TEXT WHICH HAD BEEN
DISCUSSED AT MEETING OF EC-9 AND WITH COUNCIL OF
EUROPE MEMBERS. FRG TEXT WILL BE FORWARDED IN SEPARATE
CABLE. PORTUGAL REP FELT IT NECESSARY TO HAVE CLEAR
UNDERSTANDING OF VIEWS OF DIFFERENT REGIONS AND TO
DEVELOP OVERALL STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH ATTACKS ON FREEDOM
OF PRESS AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ISSUES. FOR EX-
AMPLE, IT IMPORTANT TO DISTINGUISH THAT USSR BACKS
CENSORSHIP TO PROTECT IDEOLOGICAL PURITY WHILE LATIN
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PAGE 03 PARIS 21576 01 OF 02 231727Z

AMERICANSACCEPT CENSORSHIP PRINCIPLE TO PRESERVE
NATIONAL IDENTITY. PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR APPOINTED TO
SOUND OUT REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER REGIONS ON FREE
PRESS ISSUE IN ORDER TO DEVISE BEST STRATEGY TO COMBAT
CENSORSHIP AND CONTROL OF PRESS. SEVERAL SPEAKERS FELT
THAT ISSUE OF FREE PRESS WILL BE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT
AT NAIROBI. THE RESULTS OF MEETINGS OF
GROUP OF 77 AND OF RECENT UNESCO SAN JOSE CONFERENCE
WILI BE FRESH IN PEOPLES' MINDS. POINT WAS ALSO MADE
THAT WORLD PRESS WILL LIKELY FOCUS MORE ON HOW UNESCO

HANDLES THIS ISSUE AT NAIROBI THAN IT WOULD AT PARIS.
CORRESPONDENTS WOULD HAVE ONLY UNESCO NEWS TO FOCUS ON
AT NAIROBI WHILE IN PARIS UNESCO IS ONLY ONE AMONG
MANY GENERATORS OF NEWS.

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PAGE 01 PARIS 21576 02 OF 02 231822Z

44

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5. FRG SUGGESTED A STRENGTHENING OF "INFORMATION GROUP"
PROCEDURES. FRG FELT THAT GREATER IMPACT WOULD BE
MADE IF CONSENSUS TYPE DECISIONS IN RELATED TOPICS COULD
BE MADE AND COMMUNICATED, AS APPROPRIATE TO THE DG
AND TO OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS. A LETTER SHOWING THE CON-
SENSUS OF THE EC-9, FOR EXAMPLE, OR THE COUNCIL OF
EUROPE, OR OF THE "INFORMATION GROUP" WOULD CARRY MORE
WEIGHT THAN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER VIEWS. IT WAS FELT THAT
THIS DEVICE WOULD HELP TO REGAIN INITIATIVE FROM
EASTERN BLOC. IT ALSO WAS FELT USEFUL TO LET OTHER
GROUPS KNOW THE DEGREE OF COHESION OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED
COUNTRIES.

6. SWITZERLAND, CANADA, NEW ZEALAND AND PORTUGAL COMMENTED ON RUNAWAY NATURE OF UNESCO'S BUDGET. IT FELT THAT HIGH BUDGET GROWTH PLUS STRICKLY POLITICAL ISSUES SUCH AS KEEPING ISRAEL OUT OF EUROPEAN REGION AND UNESCO'S IDENTIFYING WITH ATTACKS ON FREEDOM OF PRESS
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PAGE 02 PARIS 21576 02 OF 02 231822Z

WOULD SOON UNDERMINE PUBLIC'S SUPPORT OF UNESCO. EXAMPLES OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION IN FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND CUTTING PORTION OF CONTRIBUTION TO UNESCO, NOT TO MENTION US CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, WAS CITED AS POSSIBLE TREND OF FUTURE. ALSO POINT WAS MADE THAT WITH ARRAY OF POLITICAL ISSUES, COUNTRIES WERE NOT ABLE ADEQUATELY TO FOCUS ON BUDGET GROWTH ISSUE WITH RESULT THAT BUDGET TENDS TO GROW WITHOUT MUCH RESTRAINT.

ANOTHER POINT WAS MADE THAT INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES SHOULD USE BUDGET AS A NEGOTIATING POINT IN ADDRESSING THESE BROADER POLITICAL ISSUES.

7. NEXT "INFORMATION GROUP" MEETING WILL BE SEPT. 3.
NEW SPANISH PERMREP WILL BE CHAIRMAN.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS21576
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760284-0625
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760728/aaaaaybd.tel
Line Count: 197
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO INFORMATION GROUP MEETING, JULY 23, 1976
TAGS: PORG, OCON, IS, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006